

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Similarly, in another embodiment, the award symbols include one relatively large award and several ~~relative~~ relatively small awards. In this embodiment, a probability of being indicated on the payline is associated with the award symbols such that the probability associated with the award symbol including the relatively large award is less than at least one of the probabilities associated with the award symbols including the relatively small awards being indicated on the payline. In another embodiment, the probability associated with the award symbol including the relatively large award is less than a plurality of the probabilities associated with the award symbols including the relatively small awards. In a further embodiment, the probability associated with the award symbol including the relatively large award is less than all of the probabilities associated with the award symbols including the relatively small awards.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a further embodiment, the gaming device includes a game operable upon a wager by a player, a plurality of reels in the game, and a plurality of symbols on the reels which include at least two designated symbols. One of the designated symbols is on each of two different reels. A triggering event is associated with the generation of one or more designated symbols on the reels. After the triggering event, a generation of a plurality of the symbols on the reels occurs without an additional wager by the player. The player is provide any award associated with any winning combinations of generated symbols on the reels from the generation. This generation and award process continues until one of the designated symbols is generated on one of the reels in the generation. If one of the designated symbols is generated on one of the reels in the generation, the position of the reel with the designated symbol is locked for a designated number of further generations of symbols on a designated number of other reels. If a non-terminating event occurs such as a designated number of other

designated symbols being generated on the reels in the designated number of further generations, the locked reel ~~are~~ is unlocked and the above generation and award process begins. If a terminating result occurs such as designated number of other wild symbols are not generated on the reels in the designated number of further generations, no further generations of the reels occurs until another wager is made in the game. It should be appreciated that one embodiment includes providing the player any award associated with any winning combinations of generated symbols on the reels from each further generation. In one embodiment, if one of said designated symbols is generated on one of said reels in one of the further generations, that reel is locked, and the designated number of further generations of symbols occurs on a plurality of the reels ~~with~~ without designated symbols. In one embodiment, each reel that generates one of the designated symbols is locked for the subsequent further generations of symbols until the designated number of other designated symbols are generated on the reels or the designated number of other designated symbols are not generated on the reels in the designated number of further generations.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is therefore an advantage of the present invention to provide a gaming device that provides an ~~increase~~ increased probability of obtaining awards in a game.